



*Connecticut Chapter*  
*P.O. Box 270595*  
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Dear Co-Chairs Needleman and Arconti, Vice-Chairs Fonfara and Allie-Brennan, Ranking Members Formica and Ferraro, and members of the Energy & Technology Committee,

On behalf of the Sierra Club and our more than 11,000 members and 30,000 supporters in Connecticut, thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 7251 and House Bill 7151.

**HB 7251 - AN ACT CONCERNING LONG-TERM CONTRACTS FOR CERTAIN CLASS I  
GENERATION PROJECTS AND THE RESIDENTIAL SOLAR INVESTMENT PROGRAM AND  
REQUIRING A STUDY OF THE VALUE OF SOLAR.**

Last year, the legislature enacted a new law, Public Act 18-50, titled AN ACT CONCERNING CONNECTICUT'S ENERGY FUTURE. Unfortunately, while the law had many positives, Public Act 18-50 eliminated Connecticut's solar net metering and replaced it with a policy that has killed the solar industry in other states. Curbing rooftop solar at a time when we need to rapidly deploy clean and renewable energy from all sources is not what we want.

House Bill 7251 is a start to fixing the problem, but it needs a lot of improvement to ensure solar generation in Connecticut contributes to our clean and renewable energy goals. As written, HB 7251 only delays the elimination of net metering. It also requires a value of solar analysis but does not tie this analysis to any decision making about net metering.

We urge you to amend House Bill 7251 to continue net metering, to mandate that the value of solar analysis be applied to solar energy decision making, to fully fund a robust LREC/ZREC program, and to lift the caps on commercial solar investment and shared solar.

There is a lot at risk if we don't fix this, including 2,200 solar jobs, reducing options for residents to choose solar, and meeting our state's climate goals for clean and renewable energy and greenhouse gas emission reduction targets.

**House Bill 7151 - AN ACT CONCERNING ENERGY EFFICIENCY STANDARDS**

Sierra Club Connecticut supports HB 7151. This bill will protect us from federal rollbacks of product efficiency standards, and strengthens product efficiency, which is essential to help us achieve our clean energy and greenhouse gas emission reduction targets, and to reduce costs for consumers.

Connecticut's product energy efficiency standards are badly in need of an update and these new standards ensure that the products we purchase use less energy and water while preserving quality and affordability. In a time when the federal government is rolling back these standards, this bill will help protect Connecticut from the losing out on the cost savings strong energy efficiency standards provide. Consumers and businesses will save money on utility bills and be protected from energy waste. By 2025, new standards could save the electricity equivalent to powering 23,000 homes. By



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contrast, if we do not enact these new standards, Connecticut would lose out on \$80 million in savings per year.<sup>1</sup>

As Connecticut economy continues to struggle, putting more money into the pocket of the consumer is a great way to give it a boost. Money that would have gone to purchase energy supplies from out of state stays in the local economy, helping to create more jobs. Moreover, these savings can be particularly crucial to low-income households, who often struggle to pay energy bills and often are faced with termination of utility services due to non-payment. Our neighboring states, such as Massachusetts and New York, are already acting on these standards, let's not let Connecticut be left behind.

These standards will also go a long way to helping Connecticut achieve its greenhouse gas emission reduction targets and our clean energy goals. They will cut CO2 emissions and other emissions harmful to public health, save our precious water resources and reduce the need to build more power plants. Projected annual energy savings for 2025 are 208 GWh of electricity, 687 billion Btus of natural gas, 2.3 billion gallons of water, and 82,000 metric tons of CO2.<sup>2</sup> These are truly substantial numbers.

As we know, the cleanest energy is the energy not used. Energy efficiency is an essential part of Connecticut getting to 100% clean, renewable energy. If Connecticut is truly serious about being a leader in the fight against climate disruption, we must make sure we are being as energy efficient as possible. Let's save money, energy, and our planet. We urge you to pass this bill.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

Ann Gadwah, Chapter Chair  
Samantha Dynowski, State Director  
Sierra Club Connecticut

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<sup>1</sup> CT HB 7151 Energy Efficiency Standards Fact Sheet- 3-1-19, Connecticut DEEP

<sup>2</sup> <http://appliance-standards.org/sites/default/files/Connecticut.pdf>